

2019 Washington, D.C. Trip Guidelines

Airline Information

Thursday, February 14th –Depart Birmingham early morning (students be at the airport at 4:45 a.m.)

February 14 Southwest flight # _____ BHM 7:10 AM (CST) – BWI 9:55 AM (EST)

Monday, February 18th –

February 18 Southwest flight # _____ BWI 2:55 PM (EST) – BHM 3:35 PM (CST)

- *Flight manners: Students will remain seated during the entire flight. No one will be allowed to exchange boarding passes.*

Hotel Information

Thursday and Friday night:

Embassy Suites –
3006 Mooretown Road
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185
Phone: (757) 229-6800
Fax: (757) 220-3486

Saturday and Sunday night:

Washington Dulles –Embassy Suites –
13341 Woodland Park
Herndon, VA 20171
Phone: (703) 464-0200

General rules

All school rules apply on the trip. See the OMMS handbook.

Items not allowed:

- Laser pens, toys (including fidget spinners and rubik's cubes, and other nuisance items (ANY INAPPROPRIATE ITEMS OR PURCHASES WILL BE CONFISCATED / DISCARDED.)

Items allowed with restrictions:

- Cell phones, iPads, iPods, tablets, etc. These devices may be used for communication purposes when designated by the chaperones or for camera or alarm use. **They will be turned off and charged at night.**

Other rules:

- No girls in boys' rooms and no boys in girls' rooms.
- No talking to strangers.
- Students may not use the hotel phone in the rooms for any reason. If you need anything from hotel management, tell a chaperone. You may NOT call from room to room. You will have a chance to call home while we are touring during the day. These calls can be made by cell phone. Parents, please review with your child how to place these calls.
- You may not open the room windows for any reason!
- Because chaperones must serve in the place of a parent, please direct your child to follow the directions of ANY chaperone. Explain that even though something may be allowed by a parent, it may not be allowed by a chaperone. Chaperones will likely be stricter due to the number of students involved.
- We cannot miss appointments to look for lost items (i.e., cell phones, wallets, cameras, backpacks, purchases, etc). Any item lost will remain lost.

Discipline

Students who have discipline infractions throughout the OMMS school year will not be allowed to attend. We will use the same infraction guidelines as for social events. Usually there are no major discipline problems on this trip. However, should a student require discipline, a detention may be issued to be served upon return to school. Should a student commit a major violation of appropriate behavior, he/she will be escorted to the airport terminal and flown directly home at the parent's expense. Should a student break the law, the student will be turned over to local police, and a parent or guardian must come to Washington, D.C. to retrieve the student.

Luggage

Each person may bring one bag/suitcase to check in and a personal item such as a backpack, purse, etc. to carry on the airplane. Be sure your child can carry both up stairs!! Students will be carrying their own bags on this trip. Let him/her carry the luggage into the airport. It will be good practice! Keep in mind that souvenirs will be coming home in those same bags, so leave some extra room. Be sure to keep the weight of each piece of luggage below 50 lbs as there could be an exorbitant fee for each pound over 50. Visit www.tsa.gov for more complete information. Remember any liquids must be in travel size containers (3.4 ounces or less).

Dress

You may wear nice jeans, pants, shorts (if warm weather), shirts, comfortable walking shoes. Please leave expensive jewelry at home. Bring one coat/jacket (good for rain/snow/cold weather), hat, and gloves. Do not bring different coats for different outfits. Pack one outfit per day. We cannot and will not go back to the hotel to get clothes should you dress without concern for the weather. Keep up with the weather reports a few days before we leave. Remember, what you wear leaving Birmingham will be on your body all day until we check into the hotel that night. You will wear your DC t-shirt to the airport on the first day of our trip.

Students are still expected to maintain Dress Code.

Cell Phones & Calling Home

We strongly suggest that students bring cell phones on this trip; however, their use will be restricted. Chaperone cell phones will remain on the entire trip. There will be times when student cell phones must be turned off. Students must follow the chaperone's directions for cell phone usage or the phone will be confiscated and turned off for the remainder of the trip. Students will be allowed to call home and use their phones periodically every day. Another alternative is to buy a prepaid calling card or a prepaid phone to call home. Make sure they know how to use these before they leave. They will have no telephones in their hotel rooms. If there is an emergency and you cannot reach your child, please call Mrs. Kennedy, Mr. Buckner, or Mr. Wortham. There will be times throughout the day and at night when the students will have an opportunity to make phone calls home.

Parents

Parents, please keep your cell phone on and with you until we return. If there is an emergency and we can't reach you, we will call the contact you have listed.

The chaperone cell phone list includes:

Mrs. Kennedy 205-907-2959 Mr. Buckner 205-616-0402

Mr. Wortham 251-533-2955 Ms. Alfinito 205-533-1884.

There are two important times when you can't be late – when we leave on Thursday and when we return on Monday. Also, if you can assist with compiling a scrapbook of the photos to remain on display in the media center, please contact Mrs. Kennedy.

Make-up Work

Each student is responsible for communicating with his/her teachers and making up any work that is missed. The teachers have been notified that the students are responsible for this. Talk with teachers ahead of time, so that the work can be spread out and not crammed in at the last minute.

Snacks

You may bring snack from home. Remember, we will be in a tourist area, and these items will be more expensive once we arrive. There will be some long periods between meals. Having crackers or some type of snack will keep you from getting irritable from hunger. Drinks can be purchased on location; however, only water is permitted on the bus.

Camera

If you are using disposable cameras, put your name or initials on each one you use. We have many opportunities for large group photos and having your name on your camera will assure you get the correct one back.

Meals

Students will attend ALL meals whether they choose to eat or not. No one will be allowed to remain in a room alone. Please review mealtime manners.

Spending Money

Probably \$20 - \$40 a day will be enough for incidentals (look at itinerary for details). All breakfasts and three additional meals are provided. **There will be 4 - 5 meals that students will need to pay for on their own.** Many of our tour destinations have gift shops, so consider possible money for souvenirs. Traveler's checks will not be replaced due to strict scheduling limitations. If you would like the chaperones to hold your child's money and disperse it daily, place the amount you want them to spend per day in 5 separate envelopes (Thu. – Mon.) with his/her name on each envelope. Place these envelopes in one large envelope (or zip-lock baggie) with the name on the outside. Refer to tentative itinerary to help plan daily budget.

Checklist

- Cell Phone (camera) & Timepiece (other than a cell phone)
- Spending money
- Medication (must be distributed by a Medication Assistant)
- Snacks for delays between meals
- Water bottle & Backpack
- Clothing and rain gear/coat
- Toiletries/DEODORANT

OMMS to Washington, D.C./Williamsburg Itinerary (subject to change)

Company	Contact person	Phone number	Email
Barbsgetaway	Barbara Dunn-Alfinito	205-533-1884	barbsgetaway@aol.com
OMMS Contact / Medication Asst (Girls)	Julie Kennedy	205-907-2959	jkennedy@shelbyed.org
OMMS Contact	Brent Buckner	205-616-0402	bbuckner@shelbyed.org
OMMS Contact	Chris Wortham	251-533-2955	cwortham@shelbyed.org
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Day 1 - Thursday, February 14

Timing	Details	Extra Information
4:45 AM CST	Meet at Southwest Departures BHM airport	Eat before flight
7:00 AM CST	Southwest Flight	Bring snack for plane
9:55 AM EST	Arrive at BWI Airport - Meet tour guides at Baggage Claim	
11:30 AM EST	Tour at American History Museum	\$20 for Lunch (cafeteria)
2:00 PM EST	<i>Drive Time to Mount Vernon: Approximately 45 minutes</i>	
3:00 PM EST	George Washington House Tour (Mount Vernon) (Possible VIP Tour)	
5:15 - 8:00 PM EST	<i>Drive to Williamsburg: Drive time 3 hours</i>	
8:30 PM EST	Pizza Party in hotel	Included in price
9:00 PM EST Hotel check-in (2 nights)	Embassy Suites Williamsburg Phone: 1-757-229-6800	3006 Mooretown Road Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

Day 2 - Friday, February 15

8:00 AM EST	Breakfast in Hotel	
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST	Tour Colonial Williamsburg with guides	
12:00 - 1:00 PM EST	Lunch in Williamsburg, free time/shopping	\$20+(extra \$\$\$ for shopping)
2:00 - 3:30 PM EST	Glasshouse and touring Jamestown/Restoration (guide)	
4:00 - 5:30 PM EST	Jamestown Recreation	
7:00 PM EST	Hibachi Dinner at Kyoto Japanese Steak House	Included in price

9:00 PM EST Hotel	Embassy Suites Williamsburg Phone: 1-757-229-6800	3006 Mooretown Road Williamsburg, Virginia 23185
Day 3 - Saturday, February 16		
6:30 AM EST	Breakfast in hotel, pack, and depart for Monticello	
7:30 AM EST	<i>Drive to Monticello: Drive time 2 hours</i>	
9:30 - 11:00 AM EST	Thomas Jefferson House Tour (Monticello)	
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM EST	Lunch at Michey's Tavern	Included in price (extra \$\$\$ for shopping)
12:30 PM EST	<i>Drive to DC: Drive time 1 ½ hours</i>	
3:30	Smithsonian Natural History Museum	
5:30 PM EST	Monument Tour: Lincoln, Washington, Vietnam, Korea, WWII	
6:30 PM EST	Hard Rock Cafe	Included in price (extra \$\$\$ for shopping)
9:00 PM EST Hotel check-in (2 nights)	Washington -Dulles Airport Embassy Suites Phone: 1-703-464-0200	13341 Woodland Park Drive Herndon Virginia, 20171
Day 4 - Sunday, February 17		
7:00 AM EST	Breakfast in hotel	
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM EST	Arlington National Cemetery	
12:00 PM EST	Lunch on own	\$20
12:30 PM EST	Holocaust Museum	
3:00 PM EST	Museum of Choice / White House	
7:00 PM EST	Potomac Dinner Cruise (Attire?)	Included in price
Day 5 - Monday, February 18		
7:00 AM EST	Breakfast in hotel, pack, and depart	
8:40 AM EST	Capitol Tour / Library of Congress / National Archives	
12:00 PM EST	<i>Drive to BWI Airport: Drive time - 45 minutes</i>	
1:00 - 2:00 PM EST	Lunch on your own at airport	\$20
2:55 PM EST	Board flight to MDW (arrive 3:35 PM CST)	

OMMS Washington, D.C./Williamsburg Trip 2019

Dear Parents and Students,

The Washington D.C./Williamsburg trip is scheduled for **February 14 - 18, 2019**. This COULD change once flight times are posted, but would only change by one day on either side. Parents will be notified of exact times of trip via email as soon as we receive notification. Students will miss 1 day of school, since the trip is over President's Day weekend.

Some of the highlights included on this trip are:

Colonial Williamsburg	Mount Vernon	Monticello
Jamestown	Arlington National Cemetery	National Monuments/ Memorials
U.S. Capitol Building	Local Washington, D.C. tour guide	Potomac River Dinner Cruise

Total cost of the trip will be \$1350. Below is a payment breakdown.

Washington DC (\$1350)

\$270 deposit due Sept. 17, 2018

\$270 payment due Oct. 15, 2018

\$270 payment due Nov. 15, 2018

\$270 payment due Dec. 14, 2018

\$270 payment due Jan. 15, 2019

These dates are **deadlines**, however you may choose to pay earlier or pay more than the minimum at any time. If you miss a payment deadline, your student may be subject to being placed on a waiting list. Please make all checks payable to OMMS. (**This amount is based on the condition that we will take enough students to fill each bus. If the number of students going does not completely fill a bus, the cost may increase slightly, and the extra amount will be added to the last payment. You will be notified if this is the case.**) Your fees will be used for (but not limited to) your child's travel (air & charter bus), lodging, breakfasts, several meals, admission fees, dinner cruise, tips to drivers & tour guides, teacher substitutes, and trip insurance. It will also pay for all administrative expenses in preparation for, during, and after the trip, with the possible inclusion of (but not limited to) chaperone meals, travel, lodging, admission fee, and travel agent fees.

This is an educational trip. We want to take students who are eager to learn about our American heritage. Please be informed that each student selected to go must have the administration's approval. A student who commits **continuous disciplinary infractions** or has **failing grades** will **not** be allowed to attend. Should this happen, money that has already been committed on behalf of the student will not be refunded. This is also a fast-paced excursion that demands maturity and self-sufficiency. The students are expected to be able to carry their own luggage, wake up on their own, move quickly to maintain a strict schedule, and act responsibly. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated, and, if excessive, could result in the student being flown home at the parent's expense.

Cancellation Policy (*Trip Insurance covers full cost if doctor-verified illness, injury, etc.):

- Cancellation by October 15, 2018: full refund minus \$50 (trip insurance)
- Cancellation until November 15, 2018: 50% refund minus \$50
- No refund after November 15, 2018 unless for medical reason

Any 7th grader wishing to make a reservation must complete the following by **Monday, September 17th** (there are a limited number of spots, and priority is given to the order received):

1. Complete the **DC Trip Google Form** by going to the OMMS DC Blog <http://podcasts.shelbyed.k12.al.us/omms-dctrip/> or email Mrs. Kennedy for the Google Form. If you cannot complete the Google Form, we will provide your student with a paper copy to be turned into Mrs. Kennedy. Completing the Google Form, only shows your 7th grader's interest in attending the trip.
2. **Initial deposit (\$270** or higher amount to reduce future payments) given to Mrs. Kennedy (room D-6) with student's name on check memo. ***This deposit holds your place on the trip.*** There is a limited number of spaces available, therefore it is a first come, first serve policy.

We are looking forward to an exciting, educational trip!

Sincerely,

Julie Kennedy, Brent Buckner, & Chris Wortham
Trip Coordinators ~ 7th Grade Social Studies

